

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING WORKSHOP 6:00 p.m.
1 CENT CAPITAL SALES TAX
DECEMBER 13, 2011

A Special Meeting Workshop was held in the City Council Chambers on December 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the 1 Cent Capital Sales Tax. Those in attendance were Mayor Rodney Berry, Council members Ronald Atkinson, Bobby L. Davis, Ralph Atkinson, Betsy Atkinson and Odessa Gregg. Councilman Michael Baker notified the Mayor that he would be absent. Also present were Mr. Alan Ammons, Mrs. Patricia Brown, Ms. Pam Jones, City Attorney Robert Lee, other citizens and the local press (WBTW-TV13).

Mr. Eddie Rodelsperger from Pike-McFarland-Hall Consultants, LLC of Myrtle Beach has done some extensive work for the City and is here to discuss what he has found out in regards to the 1 Cent Capital Sales Tax projects for the City. The projects that will be discussed are City projects and as such, Council will have to decide the scope of the projects. This workshop tonight is a work-in-progress and not the final decision. Mayor Berry asked Mr. Ammons if a Storm Water Drain project would be included in our packet. Mr. Ammons responded that was our plan, but that this company was mainly working on our buildings, new or renovated.

Mr. Rodelsperger presented and handed out to Council an *Opinion of Probable Costs* for the Elementary School Gym Renovations for \$1,131,800; Watsonia Recreation Complex for \$570,000; Grice Recreation/Boys and Girls Club Facility for \$639,000 and Tollison Center Renovations for \$1,311,840. (Copy on file in Clerk's office)

Mayor Berry suggested that on the Hazardous Materials Survey, it may be in the City's best interest to do that ourselves, because if this is the amount we put forward on the ballot (\$1,323,000) which includes that \$173,000, and if our project falls short of that, we don't get to take that money and apply it to another project. Mayor Pro-Tem Atkinson commented that there was a 10% contingency, which is \$96,000 more and that would also be gone. Mayor Berry commented that if we underestimate, the City has to pick up that cost, so it's important that the City take on the cost of the Hazardous Materials Survey. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that if we cut out the \$80+ thousand dollars for the Fire Suppression and Fire Alarm, we could apply that to another project if we could get by without it. Mayor Pro-Tem Atkinson does not see how we could get by without it. Mr. Rodelsperger commented that the total cost of the Hazardous Material Items plus the Fire Suppression and Fire Alarms

for all of the projects totals around \$418,000. Councilman Atkinson stated that if the referendum passes, and if we are only going to get X amount of dollars, maybe we could tweak some numbers and do more projects. Mr. Rodelsperger said that would be a strategy that could be considered. Mayor Berry commented that this information was a lot to take in and Mayor Pro-Tem Atkinson asked that the printouts be left with Council so that they may go over the probable costs and information for each project. Mayor Berry would like for Council to review and be prepared to hold another Workshop before the meeting in January. Mr. Ammons stated that would be fine and he would also have the information on the Drainage Project plus the other projects we had previously. It was agreed that a workshop would be held prior to the Council meeting on January 10. Councilman Davis stated that it was his understanding that the amount of funds raised through the 1% would be distributed dependent upon the municipality size. Mr. Ammons responded that we can submit as many as we like, but it will be up to the Commission to decide. If they bond it the number is \$9 million and if not bonded the number is \$12 million. Mayor Berry and Mr. Ammons feel that the City of Marion would likely get 1/3 of that. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that it was his understanding that there would be a formula to figure that, but ultimately it would be left to the taxpayers to vote at the referendum. The bonded amount of approximately \$9.6 million would be spread over 8 years. With the bond, the interest cost would have to be covered, which is the \$3 million difference between being bonded and not being bonded. Councilman Atkinson commented that if the Commission was going to bond it, now is the perfect time as interest rates are the lowest they have been in his lifetime. Councilman Davis asked if there would be 5 different applications; one from Marion, Mullins, Nichols, Sellers and the County to which Mr. Ammons responded that was correct. Mayor Pro-Tem Atkinson inquired as to what portion would go to the County and Mr. Ammons replied that the Commission would make that decision. Mayor Berry commented that he thought the formula would be based on what each area generates. Mayor Berry thanked Mr. Rodelsperger for his presentation and concluded the 1 Cent Capital Sales Tax Workshop.

Mayor Rodney Berry

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped December 13, 2011